

Application No.: 10/729,009
Reply dated April 7, 2006
to Office Action of March 9, 2006
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Docket No.: 0425-1099P

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required an election of a single claimed species based on the composition of the ignition means (that is, Applicants are required to elect a single ignition means, igniter, transfer charge, transfer charge powder, gas generating agent molded article, and gas generating agent).

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants, elect with traverse:

- **ignition means as shown in Fig. 1,**
- **an igniter 31;**
- **a transfer charge 35 (mixture of a transfer charge powder and a gas generating agent molded article);**
- **boron/niter as the transfer charge powder;**
- **nitoguanidine, strontium nitrate, carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt as the gas generating agent molded article, and**
- **gas generating agent accommodated inside a first combustion chamber 20 shown in Fig. 1 as the gas generating agent.**

Claims 1-11 are directed to the elected species; and claims 1-11 are generic.

Applicants respectfully traverse this election of species for the following reasons.

The Examiner has required an election of a single claimed species based on the composition of the ignition means. Claim 1, which is the only independent claim of the present application claims that the “ignition means activated upon an impact, the ignition means including at least one igniter and at least one transfer charge, the transfer charge being a mixture of a transfer charge powder and molded articles of a gas generating agent.”

The Examiner, however, requires an election of a single “ignition means” from the composition of the ignition means, which may include all of the compositions disclosed in the present application, and also requires the election of a “gas generating agent” which is not even a composition of the ignition means recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this election of species requirement is improper because the Examiner has failed to list correct compositions of the ignition means.

In view of this, the Examiner is respectfully requested to either withdraw this election of species requirement or reissue a new election of species requirement listing correct compositions of the ignition means.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi, Registration No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

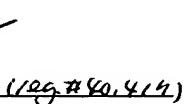
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

for 
By 
Terrell C. Birch
Registration No.: 19,382
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant